



School Aged Childcare Safeguarding Statement:

Type of Service:

Acorns Afterschool is a Breakfast club and Full Day Care service in accordance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

The purpose of this Service is to provide a full day care facility for children aged 1 year to 15 years. This Service is privately owned.

Key Personnel:

Manager:	Erika Deery
Director	Sarah Quigley Burns
Deputy Managers in Absence of Manager:	Saoirse Callaghan, Lynda Moore, Keara Kelly, Colleen Mc Laughlin, Ciara O Neill
First Aid Co-Ordinators:	Erika Deery Saoirse Callaghan Lynda Moore, Keara Kelly, Colleen Mc Laughlin, Ciara O Neill At least one staff member of duty in each room is FAR qualified

Key Personnel:

TUSLA Early Years Inspection Team Dublin North City Early Years Inspector Ground Floor Unit 4 & 5, Nexus Building Dublin 15	018975178
TUSLA Social Work	0749123672
Carndonagh Garda Station:	0749374109
Letterkenny Hospital	0749125888
Fire Bridage:	999-112
Early Childhood Ireland	01 4057100



Principles Protecting children and young people is everyone's responsibility:

The welfare of the child is paramount to us. Therefore, we want to make sure that the children in the Service are protected and kept safe from harm while they are with the staff and the students in this Service by:

- Making sure that our staff and students are carefully selected, trained and supervised.
- Having procedures to recognise, respond to and report concerns about children's protection and welfare.
- Making sure all staff are Garda vetted prior to engagement.
- Having clear codes of behaviour for management, staff and students.
- Having a procedure to respond to accidents and incidents.
- Giving parents/guardians, children and workers information about what we do and what to expect from us.
- Letting parents/guardians and children know how to voice their concerns or complain if there is anything they are not happy about. Having a procedure to respond to these complaints.
- We have a clear reporting procedure to be followed should a staff member have a concern about a child with regard to Children First (2017) and The Children First Act 2015.
 - Having a procedure to respond to allegations of abuse and neglect against staff members.
- The Child and Adult Protection policy will be reviewed annually by our Service.

3. Risk Assessment:

All potential risks have a relevant procedure to manage the risks as outlined below:

Risk Identified	Procedures in Place to Manage Risk	Responsibility
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<p>Risk of harm of bullying a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer</p>	<p>Procedures in place: Anti-bullying policy staff training supervision. Discipline procedure School-Aged children have access to complaints policy child-friendly format.</p>	<p>Management</p>
<p>Risk of harm of sexual abuse (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/ Child Abused within setting</p>	<p>Procedures in place: Vetting in place to include Garda Vetting, Police checks, validated reference. No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel. Staff aware of mandated requirement to report abuse. Staff trained in child protection DLPs appointed Mandated persons named and listed Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged when children are not present as they are unvetted School-Aged children have access to complaints policy in child-friendly format</p>	<p>Management, Staff, DLP</p>
<p>Lost child</p>	<p>Procedures in place: Missing Child Policy in place and followed Outing Policy in place and followed Risk Assessments carried out Critical Incident Plan in place. Only authorised Persons allowed access to the service</p>	<p>Management, Staff</p>
<p>Accidents Caused by Neglect</p>	<p>Procedures in place: Safety Statement in place Risk Assessments carried out following an accident and corrective action taken Accident and Incident Policy in place and followed</p>	<p>Management, Staff</p>



Medical Neglect	Procedures in place: Medicines Policy in place and followed Parental Consent Forms signed Individual Child Care/Emergency Plans in place	Management, Staff
Child not collected/ Unauthorised collection and Access Rights Persons unfit to collect	Procedures in place: Collections Policy in place and followed Emergency Collectors available, Parental Agreements & Permissions in place Child Registration Form completed with emergency contacts and authorisations. Children are not released to unauthorised persons. Where there is a dispute between parents, we will seek legal clarification regarding access and may require copies of a court order If we have never met a parent and a parent is not listed on the registration form, we may seek clarification of identity before engaging with the parent Children will not be released to parents/guardians who are in an unfit state. Procedure in place School aged children have access to child-friendly policy	
Unvetted Staff or students that may lead to children being harmed	Procedures in place: Recruitment and Selection Policy in place Garda Vetting Policy in place Relevant validated References available for all staff Child and Adult Protection Policy in place Risk Assessment of Disclosures on Garda Vetting forms completed if required Management, Staff Poor behaviour	



	strategies where the dignity of the child is undermined	
Poor behaviour strategies where the dignity of the child is undermined	Procedures in place: Managing Behaviour Policy in place and followed Positive strategies only used No Corporal punishment No isolation Professional assistance sought for very challenging behaviour Staff trained in evidence-based behaviour management strategies Management support provided to staff in relation to very challenging behaviour	Management, staff, Deputy Liason Officer
Access to inappropriate online resources. Unauthorised sharing of images and information about a child	Procedures in place Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy Parental Consent Forms completed Images only published on social media with parental consent Parents are aware of Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy and their responsibilities School-Aged children aware of the policy regarding phones, tablets and other devices and the Service has devised a child friendly policy for school age children in the Service. No mobile phones allowed in classrooms	Management, staff

Responsibility:

The manager is responsible for ensuring the above risks are managed.

4. Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National



Guidance and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedures to manage any risk identified
- Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by Acorns After School or member of staff (whether mandated or not)
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while attending our service
- Procedure for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regards to that person's suitability to work with children
- Procedure for the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to members of staff in relation to the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for the appointment of a relevant person for the purposes of this statement who is Erika Deery.

5. Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our Service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every twenty-four months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Deery", written over a large, faint, stylized outline of an acorn.

Manager Signature:

Date: 18th July 2023